

came first, the Ganoids succeeded them, and the Ctenoids and Cycloids brought up the rear. The march has been marshalled according to an appointed programme, the order of which it is peculiarly the merit of Agassiz to have ascertained.

Now, may I request the reader to mark, in the first place, that what we have specially to deal with at the present stage of the argument are the Placoid fishes of the Silurian formations, Upper and Lower. May I ask him to take note, in the second, that the long-fronted *chondropterygian* series of Cuvier, though it includes, as has already been said, the Placoid order of Agassiz,—just as the red-blooded division of animals includes the bimana and quadrumana,—is no more to be regarded as *identical* with the Placoids, than the red-blooded animals are to be regarded as identical with the apes or with the human family. It simply includes them in the character of *one* of the three great divisions into which it has been separated, — the division ranged, if I may so express myself, on the extreme right of the line ; its middle portion, or main body, being composed of the *Sturiones*, a family on the general level of the osseous fishes ; while, ranged on the extreme left, we find the low division of the *Suctorii*, *i. e.* Cyclostomi, or Lampreys. But with the middle and lower divisions we have at present nothing to do ; for of neither of them, whether *Sturiones* or *Suctorii*, does the Silurian System exhibit a trace. Further be it remarked, that the scheme of classification which gives an abstract standing to the *Chondropterygii*, is in itself merely a certain perception of resemblance which existed in certain minds, having *cartilage* for its general idea ; just as another certain perception of resemblance in one other certain mind had *cuticular skeleton* for its general idea, and as yet another perception of resemblance in yet other certain minds had *red blood* for